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the Ladder

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THE LADDER is regarded as a sounding board for various points of view on the homophile and related subjects and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the organization.

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COVER BY ARTEMIS SMITH

No Exit

A Story by Colleen Stein

Writer's Note: Perhaps I should have given this story the following title: "No Exit - with Apologies to William Tenn," for it was due to one of his weird science fiction stories that this zany piece of imagination was concocted. The story appears as "The Tenants" in a book of his entitled OF ALL POSSIBLE WORLDS, published by Ballantine Books. My contribution is a hybrid of Tenn's science fiction and the editorials appearing in THE LADDER pertaining to the gay bar problem.

* * * * *

I

Tom Porter had recently been assigned to patrol a new beat along the waterfront of New Boston, a West Coast city of some five hundred thousand inhabitants whose outward morals paralleled those of a puritanical farming community one-fourth the size.

Porter's beat covered the waterfront of the West Side, in addition to the outer reaches of Skid Row, which comprised First, Second, and Third Streets. His beat was bounded on the north by College Avenue and on the south by Ironside Boulevard. Assisting Porter on his beat were two other members of the police force. In addition, various plainclothes members of the city's vice squad also patrolled the area, since dope traffic, prostitution, and all of the other vices flourished most abundantly there.

Just before Porter began his new assignment, his chief had held a briefing session with him in his office. "I see, Porter, that you've been working the Uptown section for the last three years. I guess I don't have to tell you that this new beat won't be any Riverdale Heights residential neighborhood. Up there, your work was pretty routine, mostly checking on a few prowlers and

minor traffic violations - that sort of thing. Well, down on the Front, you'll run into all sorts of things, from rape to murder. You'll have to be on your toes at all times, ready to expect anything. Two other men will assist you and break you in. They've been on this beat for some time, and can fill you in on all of the local color. Any questions?"

"No, sir."

"Fine. Let' see - your shift begins at 7 P.M. Jenkins and Todd will meet you here at the station and drive you down with them. Oh, yes, one more thing. Be sure you get well acquainted with all of the drinking establishments on your beat. The mayor and his clean-up committee plan to go after the bars as soon as they wind up their indecent literature campaign. Next on their list are the 'queer joints,' and there are plenty of them in your territory. They seem to multiply like flies along the waterfront, and the mayor is anxious to close 'em up."

The chief glanced at the clock on the wall. "You'll have two hours before you go on shift, so I suggest you go out and get a sandwich."

II

The West Side waterfront was anything but a homogeneous upper-middle class neighborhood. Vacant buildings, decaying warehouse structures, flophouses, and Gypsy dwellings in vacated store building lined the streets. In the midst of such drabness there existed a most peculiar bar, which was located on the corner of First and Journal Streets.

A hodgepodge concoction, The Cove consisted of a run-of-the-mill tavern in the front portion of the premises, and a sort of bogus expresso coffee house in the back. The tavern was decorated in a most unimaginative and utilitarian manner, which made little difference to the clientele who frequented the place: mostly longshoremen broken-down, has-been prostitutes; and heavy drinkers about two steps removed from Skid Row. The back room served sandwiches and coffee and attempted to cater to the beatnik trade, which was increasing steadily in the

area. The Cove was housed on the ground floor of a four-story building which had once been a newspaper building. The upper floors were leased to a nearby surplus store which used them for storage space.

For years The Cove had enjoyed the dubious reputation of being "the queerest place in town," a reputation which now placed it under the increasing scrutiny of the police force. For in additon to the beatnik hangout in the back, The Cove also housed a gay bar upstairs, between the first and second floors, on a concealed mezzanine. To the casual observer viewing the place from across the street, the gay portion of the premises was not visible, for there were no windows in "The Attic," as the place was called. On the inside, the only clue that anything existed between the first and second floors was a rickety staircase resembling the ones found in Western movies.

"Straight" people were not welcome upstairs, and the sight of someone being tossed down the stairs in horse-opera fashion attracted little notice from the customers in the back room.

III

Tom Porter had been patrolling the Waterfront Beat for more than a month when the chief again called him into his office.

"Porter, the vice squad chief has decided to begin a series of raids on the 'queer joints' along the front, and the first target is to be The Attic on First and Journal. It's the best-known place of its kind in town, and with it out of operation, it'll be easier to crack down on the lesser-known spots. We're to follow the plainclothesmen and stand by in case there is any trouble. The time of the raid will occur sometime on Saturday night, November 26. You're to await instructions from the radio in your squad cars. You will be notified of the time of the raid thirty minutes in advance."

Saturday night came and went, with all of its usual gaiety, but there was no vice raid at The Attic. Instead, a very strange thing happened. When Patrolman

Porter arrived at the bar, he was met by several perplexed-looking plainclothesmen at the front door. It seemed that the proprietor of The Cove was in possession of a liquor license entitling him to operate a bar called The Attic, all right, but no one on duty that night was able to tell the police where The Attic was located, or how one might gain entrance into the place. The rickety staircase had vanished, but "butches" continued to emerge from a door marked "Rest Rooms." The door opened into a common vestibule which contained doors opening into a ladies' room, a broom closet, and a men's room.

Porter remained for a while after the other men had left and observed the customers from a corner table in the back room. He noticed that more "butches" were leaving the rest room than were coming in through the front door. He scratched his head and made a mental note to report this phenomenon to his chief.

Back at City Hall, the mayor and his clean-up committee were tearing their hair out, trying to pin down the elusive entrance to The Attic. They decided to postpone their gay bar campaign until they could work out a new strategy. Meanwhile, business flourished at The Cove, with The Attic now grossing more receipts than the downstairs tavern and coffee house combined.

Coexistent with the mayor's campaign to rid New Boston of vice were the plans of the city urban renewal commission to raze four blocks of buildings in the heart of the waterfront district to make space for a proposed park and Statler Hotel. The Cove was located in one of the four condemned blocks.

IV

Ever since Mayor Wren had been in office, The Cove and other gay spots had been a thorn in his flesh. Since The Cove was going to have to vacate before the razing began, Wren decided that he would have a look at the place on the last night that it was to be open.

As he sat unobtrusively at a small corner table in the coffee house, Wren observed many of the gay customers

entering the front door, going directly to the rest rooms, and not returning. This confirmed what the chief of police had told him. He made several attempts to encounter some of the customers in the entrance to the rest rooms, but each time the room was empty by the time he got there.

The Cove officially closed on March 13. For a week after the closing date, Mayor Wren parked his car across the street and covertly watched tradesmen and moving van personnel remove equipment from the premises. Occasionally he left his car and posed as a curious passerby. From the movers he elicited the following information: There had been a bar upstairs, it contained "a lot of crazy paintings", and the movers were having great difficulty in bringing the larger and heavier equipment down in the dumb-waiter which was in the broom closet. It appeared, moreover, that the bar itself would have to be sawed into four or five smaller pieces before it could be removed via the dumb-waiter.

That's funny, thought Mayor Wren. The police checked that broom closet time and again, and they never mentioned anything about a dumb-waiter. Wren returned to his car and waited until the last piece had been loaded into the van.

After the moving van had driven out of sight, Wren fished through his pockets for a pass key and unlocked the front door. The mixture of curiosity and anxiety in him was causing his head to throb. He could hardly restrain himself from sprinting to the broom closet in the rest room vestibule.

When Wren opened the closet door, the dumb-waiter lay in the bottom of the shaft almost as though someone had just lowered it especially for him. As he approached the top of the shaft, he noticed a trap door, which he opened effortlessly.

A single light bulb was burning in the space which had formerly housed The Attic. Wren noticed the faded spots on the walls where the paintings had hung. The place was entirely bare except for a huge wall-to-wall mirror.

After gazing around the place and musing to himself for several minutes, Mayor Wren felt a sudden urge to leave the place. He headed for the trap door, but it had vanished. He pried over the linoleum floor covering, trying in vain to locate a trap door, becoming more terrified by the minute as the realization gradually dawned upon him that there clearly was no exit from the Attic, at least not for Mayor Wren.

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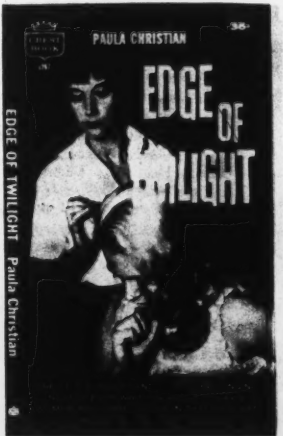

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A Psychoanalytic Approach To the Female Homosexual

Dr. Richard C. Robertiello, psychoanalyst and author of VOYAGE FROM LESBOS, was heard recently over radio station KPFA (Berkeley, California), in a taped version of a talk with the above title, given before the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The talk was a brief summary statement of his views, and no supporting evidence was offered for the positions taken.

Dr. Robertiello claimed flatly "it can be stated unequivocally that there are no physical, organic, hormonal, or neurological factors involved in female homosexuality." Since, he continued, cures have been effected by psychoanalysis, it follows that psychic factors must be involved; these he traced to one or more of a number of possible childhood trauma. While he admitted that similar childhood trauma have been found in persons who are not homosexual, but who have "other severe neurotic disturbances", Dr. Robertiello believes that homosexual seduction in childhood is the most important factor that differentiates the homosexual from the non-homosexual with similar background.

The traumatic family patterns, some of which Dr. Robertiello believes are present in the background of all Lesbians, he lists as eleven:

1. A generally competitive mother
2. An overly restrictive mother
3. A cold, ungiving mother
4. A brutal father
5. A seductive father
6. A cold, ungiving father
7. An overly restrictive father
8. A poor relation between the parents
9. A seductive older brother
10. A sexually competitive older sister
11. Another sibling favored by the parents

Dr. Robertiello believes the female homosexual to be "disturbed" in three areas:

I. The Sexual: She has an unconscious perception of intercourse as a destructive act committed by man upon woman; she sees no tenderness in him. Thus she has an unconscious fear of men. She also suffers from vaginal anesthesia - in ability to feel pain or pleasure in this part of the body.
II. The Disciplinary: There has been an overly strict inhibiting mother figure. As a consequence, there is an unconscious wish to rebel against social norms; to do what is prohibited, simply for the sake of rebelling.
III. Dependency: There has been severe maternal deprivation. As a result, the Lesbian has an unconscious desire to be "mothered" by another woman.

Dr. Robertiello then made an observation about male homosexuals (did he mean it to apply also to females?) It has been pointed out, he said, that homosexual men are often unusually attractive. This, he felt, was easily explainable, since the more attractive the boy child, the more chance he has of being exposed to a childhood homosexual seduction.

As to treatment, Dr. Robertiello stated that psychoanalytic therapy (no other kind) is the only definitive treatment. There must be an uncovering and a resolution of childhood conflicts. He claims to have cured three girls completely.

Dr. Robertiello does not, however, wish to imply that all or most Lesbians are treatable. Two of the three he treated wanted to change; the third (whom he described in his book) did not wish to change, but came because of a deep anxiety condition. Thus, he concludes, the patient must either have some basic dissatisfaction with herself, or must have some objective symptom, in order for a cure to be possible. He added that the "feminine" type of Lesbian has a better therapeutic prognosis than the "butch".

Treatment requires at least 2 sessions per week over a period of 4 or 5 years. Dr. Robertiello said the number of Lesbians in analysis increased markedly after his book appeared.

- Florence Conrad

Lesbian Literature in 1960

By Gene Damon

The subject of Lesbianism is so widespread in current fiction that generalizations are banal and inconclusive. Hardly a week passes without a few paperback originals appearing on local newsstands throughout the country. These range from trash to relatively high quality fiction. Each month brings at least one, and sometimes more, hardback novels with Lesbian characters included. The year 1957 produced 24 titles, 1958 30 titles.

In the February, 1960, issue of THE LADDER, I reported a total of 52 new titles for the year 1959 and numerous 1959 titles have come to my attention since that time.

The year 1960 has been even more fantastic with over 75 new titles. (At the end of this article is a complete list of all new titles discovered for the years 1959 and 1960 since the abovementioned article appeared.)

As far as quality is concerned, some titles deserve special mention. Among the hardback books of note are: I WILL NOT SERVE, by Evaline Mahyere; HERE LIES THE HEART, by Mercedes de Acosta; THE NIGHT OF THE HIGH WIND, by Joanna Catlow; NIGHT MUSIC, by Sven Stolpe; CLEA, by Lawrence Durrell; WHEN THE OWL CRIES, by Paul Bartlett; DEATH OF ANGER, by Allan Seager, MARIANNE, by Frederic Mullally;

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THE DAY WE WERE MOSTLY BUTTERFLIES, by Lousie W. King (New World Writing 17); and THE SINGING AND THE GOLD, by Charlotte Morrow.

Among the paperbacks of special merit are: STRANGER ON LESBOS, by Valerie Taylor; THE WILD NIGHT, by Don Holliday; JOURNEY TO A WOMAN, by Ann Bannon; OF SHAME AND JOY, by Sheldon Lord; THE WHISPERED SEX, by Kay Martin; CAROL IN A THOUSAND CITIES, by Ann Aldrich; THE CENSORED SCREEN, by Brian Dunn; MAN AMONG WOMEN, by Randy Salem; SCANDAL IN SUBURBIA, by Gardner F. Fox; MEET MARILYN, by Sloane M. Britain; and THE UNASHAMED, by March Hastings.

Certain trends discerned in past years grow with passing time. More and more novelists include Lesbian figures in minor or semi-major roles without comment either pro or con. Fewer romantic novels appear each year; the depiction of intense Lesbian romance in novel form appears to be nearly at a standstill, this in spite of continuing sales in paperback of the classic few. Many good propaganda motifs are casually included in all types of novels ranging from the "penny dreadful" mysteries to magnificent literary masterpieces such as CLEA by Lawrence Durrell.

Comparatively fewer novels vituperatively condemning the Lesbian appear each year and the attitude of acceptance is rapidly increasing from a statistical standpoint. Due to violent increasing "blue nose" censorship drives it seems likely the year 1961 will not be so numerically high in Lesbian fiction, particularly among the paperbacks. However, I believe the current increased freedom among hardback publishers of quality fiction will produce a very substantial and rewarding group of titles for 1961.

There is a tendency to omit sentiment and femininization among many current novels, with the emphasis on sexy scenes and four-letter words. For those who believe in Lesbianism as a way of life and who realize that romance is an essential, vital part of life, few current novels will fulfill their expectations. Perhaps one day the pendulum will swing away from crudity back to the emotional climate of the 1930's.

(continued on page 16)

mood miscellanea

TEMPEST

UNCEASING QUEST
NO KINDRED SOUL REVEALS TO FREE THIS HEART
CONFINED WITHIN THE ROUTING OF A
WORLD'S WORK - EXTRACTING
NAUGHT BUT ANTICIPATED EMOTIONS
ONLY TANGENT TO THE DEPTH WITHIN.

THE SHELL
THAT HOUSES THIS WHICH IS I
PERFORMS WITH ACCEPTANCE.

BUT MY RESTLESS SELF CRIES OUT -
"WHAT MOCKERY, TO DWELL WITHIN A SEA SO VAST
AND YET BE SO ALONE."

- DILO RONSON

SONNET THREE

WHEN FAR FROM YOU AND ACHING FOR YOUR TOUCH,
I FEEL THE HOURS, THE MINUTES, LINGER LONG;
WHEN WRACKED WITH PASSION'S FIRE, I KNOW THAT SUCH
DESIRES WILL LONG REMAIN UNFILLED BUT STRONG.
AND OTHER WANTS, COMPANIONSHIP AND CARE,
THEY, TOO, MUST WAIT TILL SOME LONG WISHED-FOR DAY;
REPRESSED TILL WEIGHTED, HEAVY, HARD TO BEAR,
THE HEART MAY FREEZE; THE FABRIC, THINNED MAY FRAY?
PERHAPS THE MIND, THE TREMBLING NERVES MAY FIND
THE TEST'S TOO HARD; THE HANDS WHICH TOUCHED WITH LOVE
ARE NOW A HALF-REMEMBERED THRILL, AND MINED
OF ALL ITS GOLD THE MEM'RY'S NOW AN EMPTY TROVE?
OH, NO,
THE WAITING HANDS A STRONGER THREAD CAN SPIN
AND SWEET'S THE PRIZE ONE WAITS A WHILE TO WIN.

- JAN FRASER

AFTER ESTRANGEMENT

MANY AN ICY DAY I'VE WATCHED A RIVER
PENT AND STRIVING UNDERNEATH THE BOND
THAT FEBRUARY LAYS ON STREAM AND POND -
WATCHED THE RESTIVE CURRENT STRAIN AND QUIVER
AGAINST THE CRUEL FETTER...SO MY SPIRIT
BEATS ON YOUR SILENCE HOLDING US APART,
AND ALL THE EAGER TUMULT IN MY HEART
MADE TORMENT THERE BECAUSE YOU WOULD NOT HEAR IT.

THEN ON A DAY A STILL AND GENTLE SUN
SOFTENS THE ICE, AND WITH BRIEF BITTER WRACK
THE STREAM IS FREE AND RIPPLES CALM AGAIN.
SO NOW YOUR EYES, WITH SWEET COMMUNION
WORDLESS BUT FRIENDLY, BRING MY SUNSHINE BACK,
AND IN MY HEART PEACE SETTLES AFTER PAIN.

- ABIGAIL SANFORD

LEAVES OF LOVE

NOTHING IS BINDING OR LASTING, YOU TELL ME,
AND I ALMOST AGREE WITH YOUR THINKING,
WHEN SUDDENLY I GAZE ABOUT US:
THE TREES, THE VELVET GRASS, THE LEAVES THAT
BURNISH EVERY AUTUMN -
ARE THESE NOT FAITHFUL, CONSTANT?

LET'S MAKE OUR LOVE A GODLY ONE OF DEPTH AND
BEAUTY,
SO ALL WE MEET WILL REASSURE THEMSELVES
THAT LOVE IS LOVE IN TIME AS WELL AS NAME.
LET'S NOT GO FROM ONE LOVE TO ANOTHER,
THUS LESSENING EACH PREVIOUS LOVE.

STAY WITH ME, BELOVED...HOLD MY HAND.
LET US STAND SILENTLY ON THIS MOUNTAIN AND
MOCK THE FICKLE CLOUDS AS THEY SPLIT UP PASSING BY.

- TRACYE REYNOLDS

LESBIAN LITERATURE IN 1960

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13)

LIST OF 1960 TITLES, INCLUDING 1959 TITLES RELEASED IN 1960 OR DISCOVERED TOO LATE FOR INCLUSION IN LAST YEAR'S LIST.
* INDICATES HARDBACK TITLE ORIGINALLY. 1960 COPYRIGHT IS UNDERSTOOD UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED.

AUTHOR	TITLE	PUBLISHER
GRACE METALIOUS	RETURN TO PEYTON PLACE	MESSNER, 1959, DELL, 1960
DON KING	BITTER LOVE	NEWSSTAND, 1959, 1960
DAOMA WINSTON	GOLDEN TRAMP	BEACON, 1959, 1960
J. C. PRIEST	PRIVATE SCHOOL	BEACON, 1959, 1960
LEE KORELL	MIMI	BEACON, 1959, 1960
EVALINE MAHYERE	I WILL NOT SERVE	DUTTON
DEAN & WEISS	FORBIDDEN THRILLS	BEDTIME, 1959, 1960
DEBUSSY & MAXIME	EYE LUST	BROOKWOOD, 1959, 1960
E. S. SEELEY	SORORITY SIN	BEACON, 1959, 1960
MICHAEL NORDAY	WARPED	BEACON, 1955 (1960 RELEASE)
JUSTIN KENT	MAVIS	BEACON, 1953 (1960 RELEASE)
VALERIE TAYLOR	STRANGER ON LESBOS	FAWCETT
DON HOLLIDAY	THE WILD NIGHT	NIGHTSTAND
GALE SYDNEY	THE STRANGE CIRCLE	BEACON, 1959 (1960 RELEASE)
JEROME BARRY	MALIGNANT STARS*	DOUBLEDAY
STUART FRIEDMAN	REVOLT OF JILL BRADDOCK	MONARCH
STUART FRIEDMAN	NIKKI	MONARCH, 1959
JANE MAYHALL	COUSIN TO HUMAN*	HARCOURT
KAY ADDAMS	WARPED DESIRE	BEACON
ORRIE HITT	WAYWARD GIRL	BEACON
DAY KEENE	WORLD WITHOUT WOMEN	FAWCETT
KIM SAVAGE	HELENA'S HOUSE	BEACON, 1952 (1960 RELEASE)
DAVID G. KIN	A TIME TO LOVE	CHARIOT
ANN BANNON	JOURNEY TO A WOMAN	FAWCETT
SHELDON LORD	OF SHAME AND JOY	TOWER

HARRY WHITTINGTON	REBEL WOMAN	AVON
FREDERIC MULLALLY	MARIANNE*	VIKING (BANTAM, 1961)
DEREK MONSEY	ITS UGLY HEAD*	SIMON & SCHUSTER
RALPH DEAN	LINGERIE, LTD.	BEACON
RICK LUCAS	RESTLESS WOMEN	BEACON
GORDON SEMPLE	SUMMER RESORT WOMEN	BEACON
SALLY THOMPSON	THE KEENER LOVE*	MCDOWELL, OBOLENSKY
CONNIE SELLERS	PRIVATE WORLD	NEWSSTAND, 1959
MARCH HASTINGS	VEIL OF TORMENT	NEWSSTAND, 1959
JAMES L. RUBEL	ANY TWO CAN PLAY	NEWSSTAND, 1959
WILLIAM VANEER	LOVE-STARVED WIFE	BEDSIDE, 1959
MERCEDES DE ACOSTA	HERE LIES THE HEART*	REYNAL
JOANNA CATLOW	NIGHT OF THE HIGH WIND*	HUTCHINSON (LONDON)
SHELDON LORD	A WOMAN MUST LOVE	TOWER
CHARLES GORHAM	CARLOTTA MCBRIDE*	DIAL, 1959, CREST, 1960
KAY MARTIN	THE WHISPERED SEX	HILLMAN
WHIT MASTERSON	HAMMER IN HIS HAND*	DODD, MEAD
RAY MORRISON	REFORMATORY GIRLS	AVON
DORENE CLARK	DIFFERENT	BEACON
PAMELA BOYER	BURLESQUE JUNGLE	KOZY
MICHAEL DARIUS	I, SAPPHO OF LESBOS	CASTLE
LEE MORELL	NURSES' QUARTERS	BEACON
JOHN TRINIAN	NORTH BEACH GIRL	FAWCETT
SVEN STOLPE	NIGHT MUSIC*	SHEED & WARD
WADE MILLER	SOUTH OF THE SUN	FAWCETT, 1953, 1960
BRIAN DUNN	THE CENSORED SCREEN	NEWSSTAND
WILLI PETERS	LESBIAN TWINS	VEGA
MARSHA BATES	EACH WON TWO	FABIAN
SHEPARD RIFKIN	DESIRE ISLAND	ACE
ROBERT DEVLIN	LOVER GIRL	CHARIOT
ANN ALDRICH	CAROL IN A THOUSAND CITIES	FAWCETT
UGO PIRRO	FIVE BRANDED WOMEN	POCKET
THEODORA KEOGH	THE MISTRESS	AVON, 1959
MAUDE HUTCHINS	VICTORINE* (HANDS OF LOVE)	A. SWALLOW, 1959, PYRAMID, 1960
MARCH HASTINGS	ANYBODY'S GIRL	TOWER
HENRY M. ROBINSON	WATER OF LIFE	SIMON & SCHUSTER
EVANS MCKNIGHT	SHE MADE HER BED	BEACON
SHELDON LORD	CANDY	TOWER

LAWRENCE DURRELL	CLEA*	DUTTON
H.LDA DOOLITTLE	BID ME TO LIVE*	GROVE
GEORGES SIMENON	MAIGRET AND THE RELUCTANT WITNESS, IN "VS. INSPECTOR MAIGRET"	DOUBLEDAY
ANN FREEMAN	BETWEEN THE TWO	FABIAN
DARIEL TELFER	THE CARETAKERS*	SIMON & SCHUSTER, 1959; SIGNET, 1960
EVANS WALL	WEDDING NIGHT	BEACON
LENORE COFFEE	THE FACE OF LOVE*	CROWN, 1959, POPULAR, 1960
BARRY DEVLIN	SONG OF THE WHIP	BEACON, 1952, (1960 RELEASE)
MOIRA PEARCE	A SUNSET TOUCH*	SCRIBNER
PETER FEIBLEMANN	DAUGHTERS OF NECESSITY*	WORLD, 1959, POPULAR, 1960
JANE G. PATTISON	THE FIRST SIP OF WINE*	CROWELL
GEORGE MANDEL	THE BREAKWATER*	HOLT
ALDO LUCCHESI	STRANGE BREED	TOWER
LOUIS AUCHINCLOSS	HOUSE OF FIVE TALENTS*	HOUGHTON
PETER COLERIDGE	RUNNING FOOTSTEPS*	ELEK (LONDON)
PETER BARTLETT	WHEN THE OWL CRIES*	MACMILLAN
HUBERT BAGSTER	DOCTOR'S WEEKEND*	SIMON & SCHUSTER
EDWIN WEST	YOUNG AND INNOCENT	MONARCH
ALAN MARSHALL	SALLY	TOWER, 1959
ALEXANDER TROCCHI	CAIN'S BOOK*	GROVE
MARK TRYON	TWISTED LOVES OF NYM O'SULLIVAN	BEACON
NEDRA TYRE	HALL OF DEATH*	SIMON & SCHUSTER
ORRIE HITT	PLEASURE GROUND	BEDSIDE, 1959
SLOAN BRITTON	UNNATURAL	TOWER
RANDY SALEM	MAN AMONG WOMEN	BEACON
MILTON GOLDEN	HOLLYWOOD LAWYER	SIGNET
ALLAN SEAGER	DEATH OF ANGER*	IVAN OBOLENSKY
ANTHONY WEST	THE TREND IS UP*	RANDOM
GARDNER F. FOX	SCANDAL IN SUBURBIA	HILLMAN
ALAN MARSHALL	ALL ABOUT ANNETTE	TOWER
SLOAN BRITTON	MEET MARILYN	TOWER
MARCH HASTINGS	THE UNASHAMED	TOWER
ARLINE HAMMOND	TOMBOY*	COMET
CHANDLER BROSSARD	THE DOUBLE VIEW*	DIAL

GAVIN LAMBERT	THE SLIDE AREA*	VIKING, 1959, BERKELEY, 1960
ROBIN CARLISLE	BLOOD AND ROSES	HILLMAN
SHELDON LORD	21 GAY STREET	TOWER
LOUISE W. KING	DAY WE WERE MOSTLY BUTTERFLIES,* IN "NEW WORLD WRITING 17"	LIPPINCOTT
KAY ADDAMS	THREE STRANGE WOMEN	BEACON
BEN WEST	GIRL ARTIST	BEACON
BEN WEST	LOVES OF A GIRL WRESTLER	BEACON
MARYSE CHOISY	MONTH AMONG THE GIRLS	PYRAMID
PEGGY SWENSON	THE BLONDE	TOWER
CHARLOTT MORROW	THE SINGING AND THE GOLD*	NEW AUTHORS' GUILD (LONDON)
JAMES HARVEY	A TWILIGHT AFFAIR	TOWER

PERSPECTIVE

The evening had been an ordinary one with nothing to distinguish it from any other. Dinner and the dishes were dispensed with - the chores having been shared. This was our agreement - 50-50 in everything, though sometimes it was 60-40 in my favor.

Amid sounds from the TV, Sherrin and I began a discussion which had become typical and seemed to fit in with the rest of what was fast becoming a mediocre life - or so we thought. As we sat talking, the phone rang. This had become a source of invasion into our evening reverie. The usual gossip - "How is your job?"...(rotten)..."Did you hear about Toni?...She slapped Sandra in front of everyone Saturday night!...(no, I hadn't heard and furthermore, I didn't care.) But these people were our "friends" (a word used all too loosely) and I must be nice, if only for Sherrin's sake. After I hung up, we began talking again - about our "friends," our jobs, the noisy tenants upstairs. These discussions usually turned out the same, leaving us disgusted and no closer to a solution than before. This one was no exception, and we were more anxious than ever to rid ourselves of such problems and "fly away to the land of sunshine and opportunity."

Sherrin decided to go to bed, as she had to work in the morning, but since this was my night off from the hospital, I stayed up to ponder the situation. It occurred to me that the only thing of value we really had was each other. Was this enough?...Wasn't there more...much more to be had from life?

Then from the TV screen a girl was speaking (her lover was leaving, never to return), "Some people sit together at night, knowing that they will do so the next night and the one after that, and on and on for a lifetime. And they never know how lucky they are, just being together."

Now I began to understand, and I made a mental note to re-remember those words when I found myself complaining or wishing for something I could do without. I realized that being together with the one you love and having faith in God and his people is all one really needs...And so, I gave thanks.

Then, tears running freely down my cheeks, I ran in to tell Sherrin.

- Lyn Carroll

Please Note...

DOB is expanding!

The Governing Board of Directors has granted provisional status as a chapter to a group in New Jersey. The mailing address will be announced in the next issue of THE LADDER. In the meantime those who may be interested in joining or attending functions of this new chapter should contact national headquarters in San Francisco - 1232 Market St., Suite 108.

Those from other parts of the country who are interested in starting a chapter in their area should also write to Jaye Bell, National President, in San Francisco. We do receive inquiries from time to time, but to start a chapter there must be at least five active members, and approval must be made by the Governing Board.

READERS RESPOND

"ON FEBRUARY 17, SHORTLY BEFORE MIDNIGHT, THE POLICE ARRESTED SOME 52 PEOPLE, HERDED THEM OFF TO A CHICAGO JAIL, AND CHARGED THEM WITH PRESENCE IN A DISORDERLY HOUSE. ACCORDING TO ILLINOIS STATUTES, ALL "OWNERS, AGENTS, AND OCCUPANTS" THEREOF ARE SUBJECT TO ARREST. FIRST, NOT ALL WERE ARRESTED. IT WAS DETERMINED BY THE ARRESTING OFFICERS ON THE BASIS OF "FLY FRONTS" WHO WAS TO BE TAKEN IN - "FLY FRONTS" WHICH WERE MADE IN WOMEN'S SLACKS BY LEGALLY OWNED AND OPERATED MANUFACTURERS ARE NOT ILLEGAL AND THUS THEY DO NOT CONSTITUTE DISORDERLY CONDUCT. SECOND, ON THE NIGHT THIS RAID OCCURRED, THERE WAS NO APPARENT VIOLENCE, DISTURBANCE OF THE PEACE, DISORDERLY ASSEMBLY, OR LEGAL VIOLATION. AT THE STATION THOSE WOMEN WEARING "FLY FRONTS," REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY WORE LIPSTICK, LONG HAIR, OR EARRINGS, WERE MADE PARTIALLY TO UNDRESS IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHETHER THEY WORE JOCKEY SHORTS. (I SUPPOSE THEY WILL NOW BE CHARGED WITH INDECENT EXPOSURE.) IT NOW APPEARS THAT THOSE ARRESTED AT THE DISCRIMINATION OF THE POLICE ARE TO APPEAR IN COURTS IN MARCH, WHERE THEY WILL FACE THE CHARGE AGAINST THEM.

"THOUGH I DO NOT WISH TO GO INTO THE DETAILS OF THEIR FIFTEEN-HOUR DETENTION PERIOD, I WILL SAY THAT THE CONDITIONS OF THE LOCKUP ITSELF, AS WELL AS THEIR TREATMENT, VIOLATED MORE THAN A FEW ILLINOIS LAWS.

"MANY PEOPLE SEEM QUITE CONTENT TO LET OUTSIDERS TAKE AN INTEREST IN PROTECTING THEIR LEGAL RIGHTS WITHOUT EVEN LENDING THEM ASSISTANCE ENOUGH TO MAKE VALID CLAIMS. AN ATTORNEY CAN NOT APPEAR FOR ANYONE WHO DOES NOT SO DESIRE. HE CAN NOT APPEAR FOR PEOPLE WHO WILL REFUSE TO FIGHT FOR THEIR CIVIL RIGHTS. HE CAN NOT STAGE A LEGAL BATTLE WHEN ALMOST EVERY GAY PERSON SEEMS TO BE TOO SCARED OF GETTING A PUBLIC BLACK EYE TO FIGHT FOR THE LEGAL RIGHTS THAT CONSTITUTE HIS PERSONAL LIBERTY. HE WILL FIGHT FOR WHAT IS RIGHT, BUT HE CAN'T MARCH INTO AN EMPTY COURTROOM WITHOUT A CLIENT. GAY PEOPLE HAVE LET THEIR FEARS OVERPOWER THEIR CONSCIENCE. THEY'RE AFRAID OF PUBLICITY AND NEWSPAPERS, OF PUBLIC CONDEMNATION AND THE LOSS OF THEIR FAMILIES'

LOVE. THEY'RE AFRAID OF THE BIG, BLACK, THREATENING CLOUD THAT HANGS ABOVE EACH AND EVERY ONE.

"THE OBJECT OF THE HOMEOSEXUAL TO LIVE WITHOUT FEAR OF DISCRIMINATION AND PERSECUTION WILL NEVER BE ATTAINED WITHOUT A FIGHT. IF THE GAY ELEMENT WANTS ITS FREEDOM, IT HAS NO CHOISE BUT TO FIGHT, FOR FREEDOM IN THIS COUNTRY OR ANY COUNTRY IS NOT A THING GIVEN OR GUARANTEED TO ANYONE WHO DOES NOT HOLD IT IN HIGHEST ESTEEM. THE WORD FIGHT IS A FRIGHTENING WORD.

"GAY PEOPLE, LIKE MANY AMERICANS, THINK IN TERMS OF JOBS, MONEY, REPUTATION, AND PRESTIGE. LIKE MOST AMERICANS, THEY FEEL THESE ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN EITHER ETHICS OR MORALS. FOR THIS REASON, THEY SEEM TO BE PRIMARILY CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR OWN NECKS. NOT ONLY HAVE THEY LOST SIGHT OF THEIR OWN RIGHTS, BUT THEY SEEM COMPLETELY TO HAVE FORGOTTEN HOMOSEXUAL POSTERITY. NO LEGAL MIRACLE IS GOING TO FREE US OR THOSE WHO COME AFTER US.

IF WE EVER HOPE TO WIN OUR BATTLE, WE MUST FIGHT. FIRST, WE MUST UNSHACKLE OURSELVES FROM FEAR, FOR IT ALONE IS OUR OMNIPRESENT ENEMY. WE FEAR SACRIFICE, THOUGH SACRIFICE IS CALLED FOR. IN ANY WAR - PHYSICAL, SOCIAL, CIVIL, OR INTERNATIONAL - BOTH SIDES SUFFER; IN THE COURSE OF WARFARE, BEFORE OR AFTER, ALL INVOLVED MUST SUFFER. WE ARE AFRAID TO SUFFER IN BATTLE, THOUGH IT MAY WELL BE THAT OUR SUFFERINGS WILL BE AUGMENTED A THOUSAND TIMES IF WE DO NOT FIGHT. IF WE DO NOT FIGHT, WE WILL CONTINUE IN EVER-INCREASING NUMBERS TO BE MADE THE TARGET OF SOCIETY'S AND THE POLICE'S BLOWS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO BE RIDICULED, PERSECUTED, DENIED OUR LEGAL RIGHTS, AND FALSELY PROSECUTED AT THE COMMAND OF OUR DISCRIMINATING MASTER. ARE WE TO BE BOUND AS CHILDREN BY THE FEAR WHICH DISORGANIZES US? ARE WE TO THINK AS CHILDREN OF THE WORLD FILLED WITH MONEY TREES AND SUGARPLUM TREES, WHERE WE WILL LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER? WE ARE A MINORITY GROUP AND BECAUSE WE ARE, WE CONSIDER OURSELVES ORPHANS OF SOCIETY, WITHOUT PARENTS TO PROTECT US AND WITHOUT LOVE. ORPHANS GROW UP, THOUGH, AS WE MUST. WHEN THEY REALIZE THAT THEY HAVE TO LOOK OUT AFTER THEIR OWN INTERESTS, THE SKY BECOMES THE LIMIT. OUR CASE IS NOT RADICALLY DIFFERENT.

"WE HAVE MANY ADVANTAGES, IF WE WOULD STOP TO CONSIDER THEM. FIRST, WE HAVE NUMBERS. THERE ARE MORE OF US IN THIS COUNTRY THAN THE JAILS AND PRISONS ON LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL LEVELS

COULD EVER BEGIN TO HOLD. SECOND, WE HAVE ALLIES IN MANY PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT GAY, IN SPITE OF OUR FEELINGS OF DISCRIMINATION. THEY INCLUDE PEOPLE OF ALL CLASSES, RELIGIONS, POLITICAL BELIEFS, AND OCCUPATIONS. OUR BIGGEST ALLY IS THE MORAL RIGHT, THE RIGHT WHICH HAS UNITED US WITH MANY UNKNOWN FRIENDS. THIRD, AMONG OURSELVES WE FIND EVERY ELEMENT WHICH SOCIETY AS A WHOLE CONTAINS. WE HAVE DIFFERENT RACES, RELIGIONS, AND SEXES; WE HAVE WRITERS, ATTORNEYS, SCIENTISTS, AND BUSINESS PEOPLE; WE HAVE CLERGYMEN AND WHITE COLLAR WORKERS; WE HAVE RICH AND WE HAVE POOR. FO FOURTH, WE HAVE A CAUSE WHICH IS COMMON, ONE THAT TOUCHES EVERY INDIVIDUAL AMONG US. IT IS A CAUSE THAT IS SUBSTANTIAL AND WORTH FIGHTING FOR, NOT SO UNLIKE THE CAUSE THAT FREED OUR COUNTRY. FIFTH, AND PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT, THERE ARE HEROES AMONG US, EVEN IF CORY FEELS TO THE CONTRARY. THERE ARE SOME OF US WHO ARE WILLING TO MAKE THE SACRIFICES OF BATTLE.

"HOMOSEXUALS EVERYWHERE HAVE BEEN MADE THE SCAPEGOAT OF SOCIETY. THE PREJUDICES HELD AGAINST US ARE IN MOST CASES BUILT OUT OF SIGHT OF THE VERY SAME SCIENTIFIC FINDINGS AND THEORIES WITH WHICH AMERICANS IN THIS SCIENTIFIC AGE SO CLEVERLY RATIONALIZE THEIR BEHAVIOR - BUT NOT THAT OF THEIR FELLOW MAN. HOW LONG WILL WE SIT QUIETLY AND WATCH SOCIETY KINDLE THE FLAMES BENEATH THE STAKES ON WHICH WE BURN WITH OUR OWN LEGAL AND MORAL RIGHTS?"

D. S., ILLINOIS

* * * * *

"AS A SIDELIGHT TO THE NOVEMBER ISSUE FEATURING A COVER DRAWING BY ME, A COPY SOMEHOW TURNED UP WHERE I WORK AND FOUND ITS WAY INTO MY SUPERIOR'S HOT LITTLE HANDS - AND I WAS IMMEDIATELY DISCHARGED WHEN I ADMITTED THE ART WORK WAS MINE; HOWEVER, I AM AN AFL-CIO UNION MEMBER AND THEY WORKED IN MY BEHALF ALONG WITH ME, AND I WAS REINSTATED AFTER A WEEK OF MUCH WRANGLING. VERDICT: IT IS NOT A CRIME TO CONTRIBUTE ART WORK TO ANY PUBLICATION. I HAD BEEN FIRED FOR MISCONDUCT CONNECTED WITH MY JOB, NO LESS! MY CO-WORKERS, EVEN AFTER THEY LEARNED THE GENERAL THEME OF THE LADDER, IMMEDIATELY CAME FORWARD AND READILY TESTIFIED ON MY BEHALF. SINCE THIS WAS A RATHER UNUSUAL HULLABALOO THAT DID TURN OUT WELL, I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN HEARING OF IT."

KERRY, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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KERRY, NEW HAMPSHIRE

"'Flabby fiction,' my oeil! (According to M. Gardner.) THE LADDER has produced some excellent shorts in the past, and these are the hardest variety of literature. Ask Miriam to 'donate' a few. Perhaps she can do better?"

MADELINE, CALIFORNIA

* * * * *

"It is obvious that Miss Aldrich's main objection is the picture of the Lesbian we are showing the world - the irresponsible, argyled, slacked, short-haired female carpenter who is too ignorant to realize that she, too must live in this society; that she, too, is obligated to hold down a job to support herself; that she has a certain responsibility to her fellow Lesbians and to society, as well as to herself.

"Through the years I have learned also, chiefly through the Daughters of Bilitis, that a full-fledged, honest-to-God Lesbian can hold down a responsible position, can wear skirts reasonably comfortably and gracefully, can wear her hair long, and can do a million and one things any other female can do in this society - with ease and poise, too; that's the greatest blessing!

"In short, if we homosexuals want to feel integrated into society, we in turn must offer something useful and desirable to accept.

"I'm grateful to God to be associated with the Daughters of Bilitis - even if many stories in THE LADDER may be distastefully tinged with brilliant plaids of argyle."

N. R., CALIFORNIA

* * * * *

"I read in THE LADDER (November, 1960) a letter by the Rev. P. E. Laurent, Paris, France. It was one of the best letters ever written by a minister of the ancient God.

"So very true that in the Old Testament (of the Bible) the God Ap-

PEARS TO BE CRUEL, HATEFUL AND SICKENING IN THE ABUNDANCE! THEN IN THE NEW TESTAMENT THE CHRIST CAME ALONG AND TOLD PEOPLE THAT GOD ALMIGHTY WAS OF DIVINE MYSTERIC LOVE. THAT ONE OF THE DEADLIEST AND WORST SINS (AND I AGREE WITH ALL MY HEART) WAS HYPOCRISY: A PERSON WHO WAS EXTREMELY PROUD OF HIMSELF AND TOOK PLEASURE IN BELIEVING THAT HE WAS SOME DAY GOING TO HEAVEN AND THAT THE OTHERS WHO COULD NOT, OR WOULD NOT, CONFORM TO HIS HATEFUL BELIEFS WOULD GO INTO THE FIERY EVERLASTING UNENDING TORTURE OF THE FIRES OF MYSTERIC HORRIBLE HELL!

"...THE TRUE GOD OF EXCELLENCY AND MAJESTY LOVES ALL PEOPLE... HOW WE NEED PEOPLE WITH CHRISTIAN LOVE IN THEIR HEARTS, AND WITH AUTHORITY WHO WILL STAND UP FOR THE THINGS WHICH THEY SHOULD, AND WHO WILL PUT TO SHAME ALL THOSE HYPOCRITES AND HATERS OF PEOPLE.

"LOVE FOR ALL MANKIND (IN CHRISTIAN GOODNESS) MUST SHINE OUT AND IN THE PLACE OF HATE WILL BE LOVE. .LOVE FOR ALL PEOPLE - EVEN LESBIANS."

A. M. B., CALIFORNIA

* * * * *

"I WISH TO COMMENT ON THE TWO IRATE LETTERS IN READERS RESPOND (THE LADDER, Nov. 1960) REGARDING GENE DAMON AND A REVIEW OF THE NOVEL, YOUNG AND INNOCENT. FOR MYSELF, I AGREE THAT THE REVIEW IS MISLEADING IN THAT IT SIMPLY DOES NOT SEEM TO BE ABOUT THE EDWIN WEST NOVEL; HOWEVER, WHILE I DON'T CARE MUCH FOR THE STORY THE AUTHOR HAD TO TELL, LET US NOT BE SO SMALL THAT WE FAIL TO GIVE HER CREDIT FOR A GOOD TELLING. THE QUALITY OF THE WRITING IS MANY NOTCHES ABOVE MUCH OF THE TRASH BEING PUBLISHED ON THE LESBIAN THEME. AND, FOR THIS REASON, THIS ONE DOES HOPE TO SEE MORE FROM EDWIN WEST.

"AS FOR L.P.'S REMARK THAT MISS DAMON IS 'TRYING TO SELL FOR THE DOB BOOK SERVICE' - EVEN IF THIS SHOULD BE THE CASE (AND I DARE-SAY IT ISN'T), WHY NOT? 'TIS A WORTHY CAUSE, LADIES!

"PROBABLY MANY READERS FAIL TO REALIZE THAT LESBIANA, A VERY POPULAR FEATURE OF THE LADDER, COULD EASILY BECOME A VERY IRREGULARLY APPEARING FEATURE IF GENE DAMON DID NOT WANT TO PUT SO MUCH EFFORT INTO SEEING THAT OUR MAGAZINE DOES HAVE A REGULAR

SUPPLY OF REVIEWS TO RUN IN ITS PAGES. FOR MY MONEY, SHE HAS DONE (AND IS DOING) A REMARKABLY FINE JOB OF KEEPING US INFORMED OF NOT ONLY THE CURRENT BOOKS, BUT ALSO THE OLDER ONES WE MAY HAVE OVERLOOKED. AND NOW IT APPEARS TO BE A VERY THANKLESS JOB. OR IT WAS. THANK YOU, GENE."

D. D., NEW HAMPSHIRE

* * * * *

"I SEND YOU SOME NEWS CONCERNING SEXUAL LIVING IN FRANCE.

"RECENTLY A FRENCH TRIBUNAL HAS CONDEMNED TWO GIRLS BECAUSE THEY HAD FALSIFIED IDENTITY-PAPERS IN ORDER TO BE MARRIED. THEY SUCCEEDED TO DUPE THE MUNICIPAL-DOCTOR, THE MAYOR AND THE CURATE! FRENCH LAW CONDEMNS ONLY THE FALSIFICATION; IT DOES NOT CONDEMN HOMOSEXUAL MARRIAGE BECAUSE IT'S NOT POSSIBLE TO MARRY TWO PERSONS OF THE SAME SEX.

"CONCERNING THIS AFFAIR, THE FRENCH PAPERS'VE WRITTEN MANY NONSENSES AND PEOPLE'VE NOT BEEN ABLE TO UNDERSTAND, OF COURSE.

"FOR MY PART, IF I DON'T CONSIDER THE PROFIT, I DON'T UNDERSTAND REASONS PROHIBITING THE HOMOSEXUAL MARRIAGE, WHATEVER IS THE CONSICERED ASPECT: SOCIAL, SENTIMENTAL, OR SENSUAL.

"THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT IS ENGAGED IN AN 'OPERATION VERTU': TILL NOW THIS ONE HAS CONSISTED TO MAKE SEARCHES OF POLICE IN SAINT GERMAIN DES PRES AND TO ARREST SIXTY HOMOSEXUAL MINORS, AND ALSO TO DESTROY PUBLIC-LAVATORIES!

"I'VE OBSERVED, WHEN A FRENCH GOVERNMENT PREACHES UP VIRTUE IT IS TO CHANGE THE PEOPLE'S ATTENTION FROM A MORE IMPORTANT PROBLEM! AND THE MORE IMPORTANT PROBLEMS ARE NUMEROUS..."

PIERRE, PARIS, FRANCE

* * * * *

PAULA CHRISTIAN'S SECOND NOVEL, ANOTHER KIND OF LOVE, IS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER. THE DOB BOOK SERVICE WILL PLACE IT ON ORDER AS SOON AS IT IS PUBLISHED.

[redacted]

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